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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Andrew Rodney Ferlitsch

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EXAMINER

LEE, TOMMY D

ART UNIT

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/621,176	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FERLITSCH, ANDREW RODNEY	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thomas D. Lee	<b>Art Unit</b> 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/31/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Publication 0 484 145 (Kochis) in view of U.S. Patent 6,487,611 (Brusky et al., hereinafter Brusky).

Regarding claim 1, Kochis discloses a method for selectively processing a fax job using a multi-functional peripheral, the method comprising: initiating a fax request, wherein the fax request corresponds to one of: (i) transmitting information via facsimile from the multi-functional peripheral; (ii) receiving information via facsimile at the multi-functional peripheral; (iii) configuring the multi-functional peripheral; and (iv) obtaining configuration or status information (column 3, lines 31-58); wherein the fax job is constructed as a sequence of commands from a fax description language (column 4,

Art Unit: 2625

lines 35-38); and using the multi-functional peripheral to process the fax job (column 4, line 39 – column 5, line 23).

Kochis does not expressly disclose spooling a fax job corresponding to the fax request through a subsystem of a computer device, wherein the subsystem includes a print spooler, or despooling the fax job to a printer port associated with the multi-functional peripheral. Brusky discloses transmission of fax information from a host to a multi-functional peripheral, wherein the host spools (stores) scanned fax information in memory prior to transmitting the information to the peripheral for printing by a printer (column 4, lines 44-53). Inherently, the spooled information is despoiled (output from memory) prior to transmission. It is conventional for image data that has been scanned to be temporarily stored in a memory device prior to transmission to a peripheral device, and it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a memory for storing scanned image data, such as disclosed in Brusky, in the device taught in Kochis, so that any desired processing of the image data, such as editing, may be performed.

Regarding claim 2, Kochis discloses constructing the fax job (column 3, lines 31-58). As mentioned above, Brusky discloses despooling the fax job to a print processor (as mentioned above with respect to claim 1, the spooled information is inherently despoiled (output from memory) prior to transmission). The information is scheduled to be sent to the multifunction peripheral after processing by a processor (column 4, lines 46-53).

Regarding claim 3, Kochis discloses performing the step for initiating a fax request by at least one of (i) a user and (ii) an application (column 3, lines 12-30).

Regarding claim 4, Brusky further discloses despooling the fax job to a print processor (as mentioned above with respect to claim 1, the spooled information is inherently despoiled (output from memory) prior to transmission).

Regarding claim 5, Kochis further discloses recognizing the fax job as a fax request (column 5, line 47 – column 6, line 4).

Regarding claim 6, Kochis further discloses the step for initiating a fax request including at least one of: opening an electronic document; selecting one or more print commands; selecting a multi-functional peripheral from a printer selection input dialog; and selecting one or more fax options (column 4, lines 10-27).

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Kochis further discloses a step for interpreting at least a portion the fax job at one of (i) a client computer device, (ii) a server computer device, and (iii) the multi-functional peripheral; wherein the step for interpreting at least a portion the fax job includes selectively performing processing relating to the fax job at one of (i) the client computer device, (ii) the server computer device, and (iii) the multi-functional peripheral (column 4, line 53 – column 5, line 3).

Regarding claims 10 and 11, Kochis further comprises, when the fax request is a request to receive information via facsimile at the multi-functional peripheral, at least one of the steps for: selecting a target multi-functional peripheral; selecting one or more fax options; initiating a fax retrieval; constructing the fax job; and interpreting one or

Art Unit: 2625

more fax description language statements, and a step for executing the fax description language statements (column 4, line 39 – column 5, line 23).

Regarding claim 12, Kochis discloses a system configured to selectively exchange information via facsimile, the system comprising: a computer device that includes a print subsystem (column 3, lines 12-30); a multi-functional peripheral coupled to the computer device, wherein the multi-functional peripheral is configured to dynamically process a fax job that is configured to be spooled through the print subsystem, and wherein the fax job comprises a sequence of commands from a fax description language (column 3, lines 31-58; column 4, line 35 – column 5, line 23); and a fax request generated at the computer device, wherein the fax request corresponds to the fax job, and wherein the fax request corresponds to one of: (i) transmitting information via facsimile from the multi-functional peripheral; (ii) receiving information via facsimile at the multi-functional peripheral; (iii) configuring the multi-functional peripheral; and (iv) obtaining configuration or status information (column 3, lines 31-58).

Kochis does not expressly disclose the print subsystem including a print spooler. As mentioned above with respect to claim 1, Brusky discloses transmission of fax information from a host to a multi-functional peripheral, wherein the host spools (stores) scanned fax information in memory prior to transmitting the information to the peripheral for printing by a printer (column 4, lines 44-53). It is conventional for image data that has been scanned to be temporarily stored in a memory device prior to transmission to a peripheral device, and it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a memory for storing scanned image data, such as disclosed in Brusky, in the

Art Unit: 2625

device taught in Kochis, so that any desired processing of the image data, such as editing, may be performed.

Regarding claim 13, Kochis further discloses a network, wherein the network couples the computer device and the multi-functional peripheral (Fig. 2).

Regarding claims 15 and 16, Kochis further discloses a second multi-functional peripheral coupled to the network (Fig. 2); and an interpreter coupled to and employed by the multi-function peripheral that is configured to accept a page description language for printing and the fax description language for faxing (column 4, lines 53-57), wherein the interpreter is further configured to accept a scan description language for scanning (column 4, lines 32-35 and 53-57).

Claims 17-20 recite a computer program product comprising computer readable medium for providing computer program code means for performing the steps of above-rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, respectively. Kochis provides a disk 310 and memory 312 to store software for performing the above steps (column 4, lines 20-24 and 28-38).

4. Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kochis in view of Brusky as applied to claims 6 and 17 above, and further in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Neither Kochis nor Brusky expressly disclose steps for: converting the document to one or more graphics device interface commands; sending the graphics device interface commands to a driver associated with the multi-functional peripheral; and converting the graphics device interface commands to a fax format, as recited in claims 7 and 21. However, Applicant has disclosed in the specification, under Background and

Art Unit: 2625

Related Art, a technique allowing facsimile messages to be sent or received electronically to/from a computing device. In this technique, document data is converted into graphics device interface (GDI) data that is passed to a GDI fax driver, which converts the GDI data into a format compatible with a fax device, and the fax data is despoiled to an MFP (Applicant's specification: page 3, line 19 – page 4, line 4). As this technique was known in the art at the time of Applicant's invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide this technique in the combined teaching of Kochis and Brusky, so as to facilitate transmission of text and graphics between a host computer and a multifunctional peripheral.

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kochis in view of Brusky as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,937,150 (Phan).

Neither Kochis nor Brusky disclose a server coupled to the network, wherein the computer device is a client computer device. Phan discloses a LAN, including a file server, workstations and MFPs coupled to one another via network communications lines (column 2, lines 40-51). A server connected to the network controls access to file and disk resources on a network, and provides security and synchronization on the network through a network operating system (column 2, lines 53-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the combined teachings of Kochis and Brusky by providing a server coupled to the network, so as to provide storage of files that can easily be accessed by a user at a host computer for transmission over the network to a recipient.



Art Unit: 2625

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas D. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-5:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Thomas D Lee  
Primary Examiner  
Technology Division 2625

tdl  
April 26, 2007